

## *2019 Community Recovery Forum*

# "The Recovery Journey – Building Resilience Together"

*Alistair Dawson APM – Acting Inspector-  
General Emergency Management*

**IGEM**

Inspector-General Emergency Management



Queensland  
Government

# Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management

- IGEM is an **independent statutory authority**.
- **Established five years** via the Disaster Management Act.
- What do we do?
  - **Assess disaster preparedness** at local district and state levels
  - **Develop standards** for disaster management;
  - Drive **continuous improvement**



# Disaster events in Queensland

- Queensland is **most disaster-prone state** in Australia.
- **Increasing frequency** of events creates challenges for government.
- **60% of the total costs for natural disasters in Australia** come from Queensland.
- That's a cost of around **\$11 billion per year**.



Peregian fires – Sept 2019



Townsville floods – Feb 2019

# IGEM - we're about people

- IGEM is **about people**.
- We're an organisation made up of people **just like you!**
- We live in Queensland – and just like you - we've **seen our fair share of natural disasters!**
- It's vital we **review our response and recovery** to disasters, and we do it together.
- Working closely with our stakeholders we **encourage best practice** in disaster management.



Feb 2019 – Townsville floods



Sept 2019 - Sarina fire

# There's no 'big stick'

- IGEM is about **working with people to effect change**.
- There's **no 'big stick'** – need to work collaboratively
- IGEM is here to **light the road ahead** – but agencies are the ones driving the car.
- Ask yourself - **what can my agency do** to enhance our disaster preparedness?



# Standard doesn't mean assurance

- In 1988 – the European Commission established a **standard for cucumbers**.
- Cucumbers couldn't be too curved!
- IGEM is **responsible for developing Standard** in Disaster Management
- A standard is only as good as **what you do with it!**
- That's why IGEM **regularly reviews disaster management plans** – to ensure updated, reflective of best practice and exercised regularly.

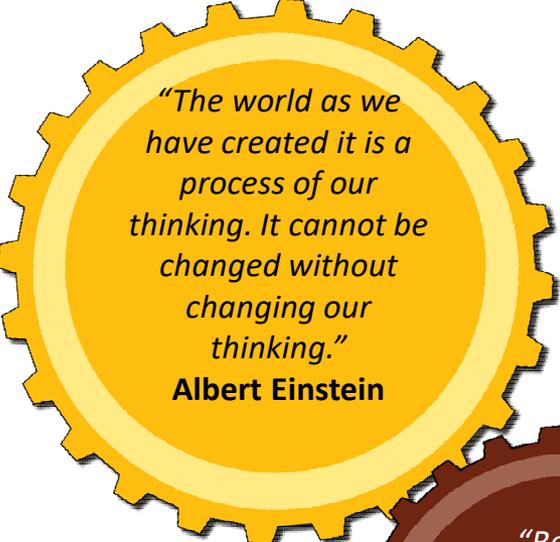


# Summarising what we've learnt today

We've seen a number of great speakers and sessions today – it's a great chance to reflect and see what you can implement in your own work.

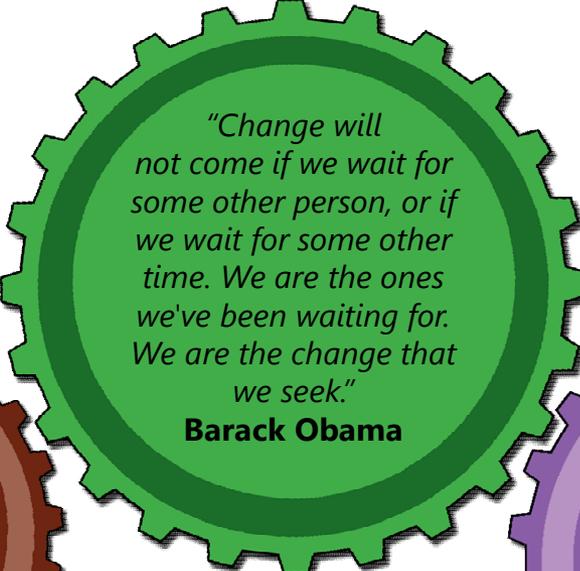


# Have courage and be the change



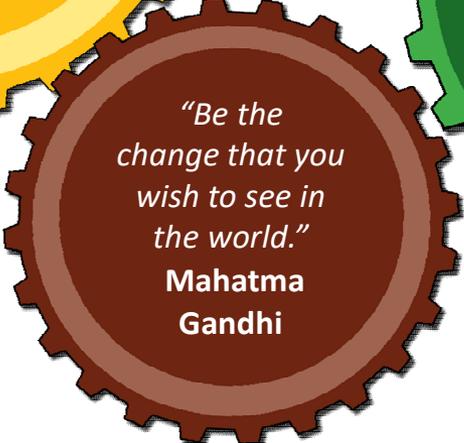
*"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking."*

**Albert Einstein**



*"Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."*

**Barack Obama**



*"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."*

**Mahatma Gandhi**



*"Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle."*

**Martin Luther King Jr**

**How will you create change to make a difference within your community?**

# Questions?

Alistair Dawson APM

Acting Inspector-General Emergency Management

[Alistair.Dawson@igem.qld.gov.au](mailto:Alistair.Dawson@igem.qld.gov.au)